

What is claimed is:

Sub. B1 >

1. A method for treating stroke patients, comprising the acts of:  
identifying a stroke patient for treatment;  
advancing a heat exchange catheter into said patient; and  
inducing hypothermia using said heat exchange catheter.
2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the act of monitoring said patient's blood pressure level.
3. The method of Claim 2, further comprising the act of maintaining said patient's blood pressure at a desired blood pressure level.
4. The method of Claim 1 wherein said heat exchange catheter is advanced into a central venous vein of said patient.
5. The method of Claim 1 wherein said heat exchange catheter is advanced into a carotid artery of said patient.
6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the act of administering a sedative to said patient.
7. The method of Claim 6, further comprising the acts of intubating said patient; and then ventilating said patient.
8. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the acts of intubating said patient; and then ventilating said patient.
9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the act of administering a paralytic drug to said patient.
10. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the act of administering a neuro-protectant drug to said patient.

11. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the act of performing a neuro-protection procedure on said patient.

12. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the act of performing a non-catheter-based hypothermia procedure on said patient.

13. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the act of draining CSF from said patient.

14. The method of Claim 13 wherein said draining occurs from a spine cavity.

15. The method of Claim 13 wherein said draining occurs from a brain cavity.

16. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the act of administering an anti-clot medication to said patient.

17. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the act of administering a clot lysis medication to said patient.

18. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the act of performing an angioplasty procedure on said patient.

19. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the act of deploying a stent in an artery of said patient.

20. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the act of removing a clot from an artery of said patient.

21. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the act of monitoring said patient's ICP level.

22. The method of Claim 21, further comprising the act of maintaining said patient's ICP at a desired ICP level.

23. The method of Claim 22, further comprising the act of administering a paralytic drug to said patient.
24. The method of Claim 22, further comprising the act of administering a neuro-protectant drug to said patient.
25. The method of Claim 22, further comprising the act of performing a neuro-protection procedure on said patient.
26. The method of Claim 22, further comprising the act of performing a non-catheter-based hypothermia procedure on said patient.
27. The method of Claim 22, further comprising the act of draining CSF from said patient.
28. The method of Claim 27 wherein said draining occurs from a spine cavity.
29. The method of Claim 27 wherein said draining occurs from a brain cavity.
30. The method of Claim 22, further comprising the act of administering an anti-clot medication to said patient.
31. The method of Claim 22, further comprising the act of administering a clot lysis medication to said patient.
32. The method of Claim 22, further comprising the act of performing an angioplasty procedure on said patient.
33. The method of Claim 22, further comprising the act of deploying a stent in an artery of said patient.
34. The method of Claim 22, further comprising the act of removing a clot from an artery of said patient.
35. A system for treating a stroke patient, comprising:

at least one cooling catheter having a heat exchange region on a distal portion thereof, and at least one blood pressure probe to provide an indication of said patient's blood pressure.

36. The system of Claim 35, further comprising a drug delivery component and at least one sedative drug in said drug delivery component.

37. The system of Claim 35, further comprising a drug delivery component and at least one paralytic drug in said drug delivery component.

38. The system of Claim 35, further comprising a drug delivery component and at least one neuro-protectant drug in said drug delivery component.

39. The system of Claim 35, further comprising a drug delivery component and at least one anti-clot drug in said drug delivery component.

40. The system of Claim 35, further comprising a drug delivery component and at least one clot lysis drug in said drug delivery component.

41. The system of Claim 35, further comprising a ventilator for ventilating said patient.

42. The system of Claim 35, further comprising a cranial pressure probe advanceable into said patient to provide an indication of pressure level in said patient's head.

43. The system of Claim 35, further comprising a cooling system for heat exchange with coolant fluid flowing through said cooling catheter.

44. The system of Claim 35, comprising at least two cooling catheters.

ADD B2 >